

**ABSTRACT**

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2       Method and apparatus for switching between multiple implementations of a  
3 routine. A plurality of implementations of a routine are compiled into respective object  
4 code modules. In one embodiment, each implementation of the routine is adapted for a  
5 particular hardware configuration. The different object code modules are associated  
6 with respective sets of hardware characteristics and with the name of the routine.  
7 When the application program and library are loaded into memory of the computer  
8 system, a references to the routine are resolved using the sets of hardware  
9 characteristics and the hardware configuration of the system.